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LITERACY COMMITTEE

January 15, 2013– 8:45 a.m. –10:00 a.m.
Mercer County Community College – Trenton Campus

Present: Monica Weaver (MCCC), Gay Egan (Mercer Street Friends), Lynne Wise (Home Front), Peg Gould (MCCC), Paula Rossi (Princeton Y), Shirley Tyler (Dressed for Success), Jane Kleindienst (Lutheran Social Ministries), Sharon Nemeth (MCTS), Scott Bollwage (MCCC), Ralph Rivera (Isles), Rakima Stokes (MCCC)

Staff: Beverly Mills

Monica Weaver, MCCC Provost and Co-Chair of the WIB Literacy Committee, opened the meeting.

Review and Approval of December 18, 2013 Minutes:

The minutes from the December 18, 2013 meeting were reviewed by the committee; a motion was made by Sharon Nemeth to approve the minutes and was seconded by Lynne Wise. The approved minutes will be placed on the county website.

Consortium Update as of January 15, 2014:

Monica reported MCCC has requested a two week delay until January 24, 2014 to work on the budget. There has been an error in the billing process and they are trying to determine what is causing the problem. MCCC will continue with billing and will front reimbursements to vendors if necessary.

Professional Development Day Conference on Common Core Standards:

As per the state contact, three professional development conferences are required. The first conference was in November with LaGuardia and the remaining two will be scheduled in March and either May or June. Scott said Maxine McCormick has done an excellent job presenting on adult learning styles and suggested we contact her.

Gay suggested we also contact the Department of Education for someone to present on common core standards; Rakima will follow up. Peg made the suggestion there be more than one common core presentation since ESL and math parts can stand alone. Rakima will also follow up. Paula will also ask her co-worker who is working with an ESL common core standard.

Sharon suggested someone bring information about the Affordable Care Act and Monica added free tax preparation (VITA). Three vendor tables were suggested; Affordable Care Act, free tax information and the speaker's book sale.

Committee discussed when high school equivalency testing might start. Scott mentioned that Hamilton still has not made up their mind which test they plan to offer. Monica said she would like to start testing in February but only computer based as paper and pencil is cost prohibitive for MCCC.

Gay commented she is concerned about some students' ability to use keyboard and editing tools since reading and response time is short and more difficult. Ralph agreed saying students at Isles find it too challenging and some walk out in frustration.

Monica responded IT and technology are important components of what students need to know; we need to rethink how to use technology in the classroom.

Gay added the state should consider a grace period in order for grant participants reach their benchmarks. Monica said this question may be addressed through the WIB; for the state to acknowledge administrative changes that will impact reasonable goals.

Literacy NGO:

Rakima attended the technical assistance meeting that took place on January 7th. Applicants must address one or more of the following: (1) updating curriculum, (2) digital literacy, (3) career pathways and (4) youth literacy/numeracy.

Peg added there is no sustainability clause in the grant and the grant appears to stem from the SCALES report. Monica said in tapping with the past conversation perhaps we should consider writing for a person to develop core standard curriculum? Peg said there is a "train the trainer" requirement.

Monica asked how to use what we already have and infuse a technical piece and career readiness. After discussion the committee agreed upon a collaborative process in three areas: career pathways, digital literacy and updating curriculum. Application would include curriculum design that would be customized according to consortium partners' and WIB Literacy needs with MCCC as lead.

Peg suggested we consider writing for two people, a trainer and a writer since they will likely have different skill sets.

Sharon said that the MCTS is looking at the career pathways piece. Monica and Beverly will do the proposal and asked members to email thoughts.

Meeting adjourned; next WIB literacy meeting on **February 19, 2014 (8:45 AM)** MCCC Trenton Campus